



Sciro Publishers

International Journal of Language, Literature and Culture

2026; 2(1): 01-02 | ISSN(O): 2693-3519

<https://scirojournals.com/index.php/ijllc>

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.19611156

Poetics of pain and protest: Exploring marginal Voices in Poetry and Drama

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Received: 02.03.2026 | **Revised:** 03.04.2026 | **Accepted:** 17.04.2026

Abstract:

By the words of Sigmund Freud's ID, Ego, and Super-Ego, we can tell how the words influence human behavior and attitude. This can be seen in literature, but especially in Emotional, Pain, and Revolutionized works.

This Paper mainly studies from the reference with my "Personal Observations in everyday life and the surrounding environment, also the South Indian Contemporary writer.

I try to convey how emotions are important in mute animals and voiceless people.

ID explains our inner feelings like anger, hunger, and other instant feelings, while the superego explains the moral attitude, which is good and which is bad. Here, the ego mediates them, and it explains how we are in the real situation.

The inner feelings and thoughts influence our problems and injustice; these personalized problems can be understood by the literature, and it impacts the social issues.

If we analyse the poetry, stories, and writings through Sigmund Freud's theory, we can understand the inside Sorrow, feelings, emotions, and other social constraints.

This theory improves the quality of living with empathetic behavior. This work also explains how we have two personalities, like an internal and external personality. "People expect respect." When this fails, the internal personality may come out, which is not acceptable sometimes. This can happen in living things, whether they fight or escape, but what about in muted animals? The main purpose of this paper is to bring out the feelings in muted animals in unconditional/unavoidable situations.

Keywords: ID, Ego, Super-Ego, Lesbian, Dyslexic, Pain, and Voiceless.

1. Introduction

Literature is the mirror of human feelings, emotions, and attitudes. With these attributes, an individual becomes either a noble person's/ trouble persons. People expect respect, but when it does not happen, they get frustrated and violent. We apply Sigmund Freud's trilogy: ID, Ego, and Superego, in understanding the modern mind and today's generation.

Sigmund Freud's theory of the mind:

Sigmund Freud was an Austrian neurologist and psychologist, and he is the founder of psychoanalysis. Now we can

develop this by literary characters and real-world individuals exploring their inner conflicts and ethical challenges Theory of the Mind by Sigmund Freud:

- **ID:** This attitude seeks instant pleasure, designs, and immediate satisfaction.
- **Ego:** It is the mediator between the ID and super ego it is also called the reality principle
- **Super Ego:** This stands for moral standards and ethics; it tells what is right and what is not.

2. Poetics of Pain and Protest in Literature

Now we move forward with these concepts to observe and understand the *"Poetics of Pain and Protest"* in exploring the voices of suffering in poetry and drama. For this, I have taken the work of a South Indian writer, K. Vaishali Gayatri, in *Homeless: Growing Up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India* (2023). She shares her personal journey, which can be seen as a silent battle with an invisible enemy, illustrating the immense pressure she experienced. When two such attributes exist within one person, she becomes ignored by her family, friends, society, and others (Butler 45; hooks 14). This demonstrates the emotional pressure and inner conflict she endured (Scarry 4; Fanon 35).

To understand her strong emotions, we can analyse them through the lens of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory (Freud 25; Freud 33):

- **Id:** She wants to live freely and express her beautiful emotions (Freud 19; Adams 68).
- **Ego:** She negotiates her dreams within the limitations imposed by society (Freud 27; Nayar 102).
- **Superego:** The internalized moral and social norms generate feelings of guilt, fear, and shame (Freud 30; Butler 52; Spivak 271).

3. Personal Observations and Case studies

Human examples- *"The Drunken Mother with her four Children."* I observed a mother who was unbalanced due to drunkenness and failed to take care of herself and her children. The children struggled to care for their drunken mother and felt hungry for food. There was helplessness in their eyes and no strength in their little hands to lift their mother.

Here, I apply Freud's theory to both sides — the mother and the helpless children.

- **Id (Mother):** Escape from responsibilities through alcohol.
- **Ego (Mother):** Failed to balance her emotions with reality, being unable to save her children.
- **Superego (Mother):** Conscience overwhelmed by addictive guilt.
- **Id (Children):** Need for safety, food, water, and shelter.
- **Ego (Children):** Caring for their mother and seeking help from others.
- **Superego (Children):** They do not resort to aggression despite desperation.

4. Muted/voiceless Animals "Voices of the voiceless"

Voiceless Souls in a State of Helplessness. Many incidents of cruelty occur in our regular daily lives, not only against humans but also against voiceless or muted animals. The cruelty of humans is often seen while transporting these animals from

one place to another in cramped and suffocating conditions, with ropes tied tightly around their bodies. Such acts show a lack of sympathy and empathy toward these helpless creatures. We cannot imagine bearing even a small problem ourselves; then what must be the feelings of these muted animals when they are tied up in front of the butcher shop, awaiting their fate?

- **Id (Transporter):** Driven by profit and sadistic pleasure.
- **Ego (Transporter):** Proceeds with harmful actions.
- **Superego (Transporter):** Minimal ethics and consideration.
- **Id (Animals):** Desire for survival and freedom.
- **Ego (Animals):** Trying to adjust to the present circumstances.
- **Superego (Animals):** Act on instinct rather than moral reasoning.

5. Conclusion

Poems, books, and writings not only reflect human behavior but also mirror ourselves. The Austrian psychologist Sigmund Freud's theory of the Id, Ego, and Superego teaches us to understand how an individual's inner conflicts influence their actions. The suffering and struggles of individuals can transform into writings that teach empathy and sympathy. In the context of modern life challenges, literature becomes a bridge between personal emotion, social awareness, and reality. It helps us connect with voiceless souls while examining the human mind and moral choices.

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